

On Top Of The News

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Wednesday, March 3, 2010

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

PAISLEY UNION



Ian Paisley, the hard-line Northern Ireland evangelist who led Protestants into power-sharing with Catholics, announced Tuesday March 2, 2010 he will retire from the British Parliament after a 40-year career.

Read more on Page A7

SPORTS NEWS

AVALANCHE FALL



Detroit Red Wings left winger Tomas Holmstrom, of Sweden, is congratulated as he passes the team box after scoring a goal against the Colorado Avalanche in the first period of an NHL hockey game in Denver on Monday, March 1, 2010.

Read more on Page 13

	Price of a barrel of petroleum US\$ 79.68 ↑ 0.98
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Angry Sen. Jim Bunning holds up spending bill

ROGER ALFORD

Associated Press Writer

FRANKFORT, Kentucky (AP) — The angry man of the Senate is at it again.

Republican Sen. Jim Bunning, a 78-year-old former baseball pitcher, is playing hardball on Capitol Hill, single-handedly holding up a \$10 billion spending bill because it would add to the deficit.

The move has forced some 2,000 federal employees into unpaid furloughs, put jobless benefits in jeopardy for millions and halted more than 40 highway projects.

Because of his ornery nature and ungovernable mouth, Bunning has come to be regarded as the crazy uncle in the Senate attic during his 11 years in Washington.

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Mike Dross, right, talks with Kentucky's Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo during a protest against U.S. Sen. Jim Bunning's decision to vote against the extension of unemployment benefits in Louisville, Ky., on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Associated Press



President Barack Obama speaks at Savannah Technical College in Savannah, Ga., Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Associated Press

By CHARLES BABINGTON

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama embraced a handful of Republican health care ideas Tuesday to lure Democratic votes as he prepared to spell out his final package for a sharply divided House and Senate, where its fate is unsure.

In a bit of political sleight of hand, Obama said he might include



Obama cites GOP ideas as he preps health care plan

four GOP-sponsored ideas in his plan, even though virtually no one in Congress or the White House thinks it will procure a single Republican vote.

The move is aimed instead at wavering Democrats, especially in the House. Some of them might find it easier to vote for the health care package if they can tell constituents it had bipartisan elements that Republicans should have supported. Yet there is no guarantee that Democratic leaders will incorporate Obama's suggestions in revised legislation.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell warned that Democrats will enact their health care plan at their own political peril, vowing to make it an issue in every congressional race this fall.

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President Barack Obama waves as he boards Air Force One at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga., on Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Associated Press

HEALTH CARE

Continued from Front Page

In remarks at the White House on Wednesday, the president will describe the final elements of his proposal and then ask Congress to enact it, aides said. He is expected to leave no doubt that, barring an unexpected change in Republican tactics, he wants Congress to pass

the legislation using budget reconciliation rules, which prohibit Senate filibusters. Obama is unlikely to use those exact words, as Democratic leaders are emphasizing they want to pass a bill with simple majority votes in the House and Senate.

It takes 60 votes to halt a filibuster, and Democrats control only 59 in the 100-member Senate.

In a letter to congressional leaders Tuesday, Obama said he would consider four ideas floated by Republican lawmakers: sending investigators disguised as patients to uncover fraud and waste in Medicare and Medicaid; expanding pilot programs to bring more predictability to medical malpractice lawsuits; increasing payments to Medicaid providers; and expanding the use of health savings accounts.

"I said throughout this process that I'd continue to draw on the best ideas from both parties, and I'm open to

these proposals in that spirit," Obama wrote.

In a nod to his 2008 presidential rival, he said he had eliminated a special deal for Medicare Advantage beneficiaries in Florida and other states that drew criticism from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

But Obama again rejected Republican appeals to restart the health care debate or dramatically scale back his proposals.

"Piecemeal reform is not the best way to effectively reduce premiums, end the exclusion of people with pre-existing conditions or offer Americans the security of knowing that they will never lose coverage," his letter said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the letter "brings us just another step closer to passing the bill." She said she hopes to incorporate some of the GOP ideas. Republicans, meanwhile, made it clear the president's overtures will not win their hearts or votes.

Sen. Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican who proposed

some of the notions Obama is weighing, said that "merely incorporating these ideas into the deeply flawed House and Senate bills will not bring us any closer to real reform." In a letter to Obama, Coburn noted that opinion polls show extensive opposition to the Democratic plan. "An all-or-nothing reconciliation strategy will give the American people nothing," Coburn wrote.

White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, after meeting with top Democrats in the Capitol, told reporters: "Reconciliation is a vehicle that's been used many times. This is a normal procedure."

The Democratic package would extend health coverage to 30 million uninsured Americans over 10 years, with a first-time mandate for nearly everyone to buy insurance. It would provide subsidies to help low-income people buy insurance, and it would impose several new requirements on insurers and employers.

It will be less expensive than the health care bill the

House narrowly passed in November, and will contain no government-run insurance program to compete with private insurers.

Those changes might appeal to some of the three dozen Democratic House moderates who opposed the November version of the bill. The revised bill may die if none of those Democrats vote for it, because some Democrats appear likely to switch from yes to no because of a dispute over abortion funding restrictions. Obama signaled a willingness to take a small step farther into the contentious issue of limiting lawsuits that allege medical malpractice. Plaintiffs' lawyers, a key fundraising source for Democrats, staunchly oppose such limits. But Republicans and many doctors have demanded them for years.

Obama's letter said he was open to appropriating an extra \$50 million for pilot programs that experiment with specialized health courts rather than jury trials. □

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Gates says study on gays should include troops

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Tuesday that a Pentagon review of how to lift the ban on openly gay military service personnel must involve troops and their families at all levels of the armed forces without ensnaring them in political debate.

In a memo outlining a sweeping nine-month study, Gates said the assessment should be done by Dec. 1. "It is critical that this effort be carried out in a professional, thorough and dispassionate manner," Gates wrote. "Given the political dimension of this issue, it is equally critical that in carrying out this review, every effort be made to shield our men and women in uniform and their families from those aspects of this debate."

The internal assessment is the first of its kind since 1993, when the Pentagon adopted its "don't ask, don't tell" policy based on a law banning service members from acknowledging that they are gay.

Gates announced the effort last month — the first specific action from the Obama administration toward lifting the ban. As a candidate, President Barack Obama had pledged to abolish the ban.

The review is led by Pentagon General Counsel Jeh Charles Johnson with Army Gen. Carter Ham in charge. Ham is head of U.S. Army Forces Europe.

The pair are to testify before a House Armed Services Committee panel on Wednesday, where some Republicans are expected to complain that the Pentagon has prejudged the outcome of the review. Gates and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen went on record last

month in favor of lifting the ban.

The panel's top Republican also is unhappy with the selection of the RAND Corp. think tank to do much of the legwork for the study, which will solicit opinions and make recommendations about practical and legal ramifications of lifting the ban, as well as the effect on morale, fighting readiness, recruitment and other issues.

In an e-mail obtained by The Associated Press, a staffer for top Republican Rep. Buck McKeon, told Pentagon officials working on the review that the company had "significant shortcomings" in past work analyzing the issue and partnered with a group advocating repeal last year. "Given RAND's track record on this issue, there is no way that any study it produces can be called credible or objective," staffer John Chapla wrote. The Pentagon review will focus primarily on three areas: changes to legislation, education and training and policy, a senior defense official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the work of the study is largely confidential, said each area

will be assigned a working group to be led by a senior civilian and a one- or two-star general officer.

Air Force Maj. Greg Biscone has been appointed the group's executive director.

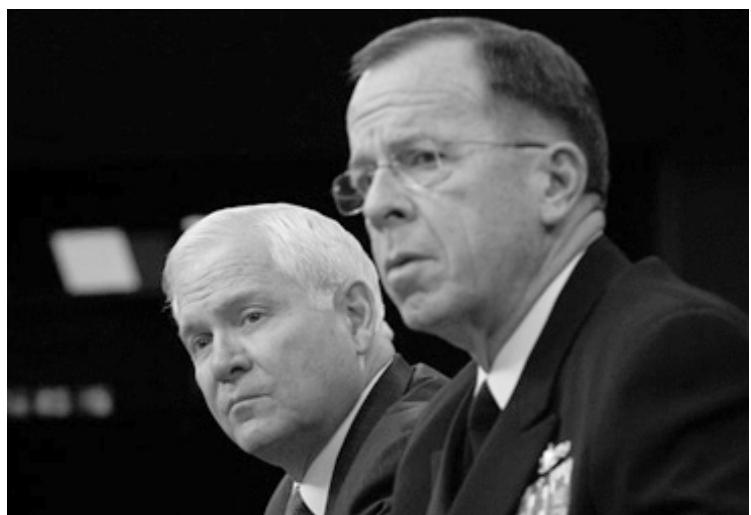
Separately, Johnson is looking at ways to be more lenient in enforcing the existing policy. Those recommendations are due this month.

While several Democrats want an immediate freeze on dismissals under the policy, some Democrats have joined Republicans in opposing a repeal.

Testifying before Congress last week, the services' top uniformed officers said they were reluctant to impose such a major upheaval at a time of two wars. The paramount concern was military readiness, they said.

Gates' answer to this reluctance has been to move slowly. Last month, he announced that the Pentagon would first study the impact a repeal might have on troop effectiveness.

According to Tuesday's memo, Gates says the study also should look at whether the Pentagon would have to rethink the benefits it provides troops and how it



In this Feb. 22, 2010 file photo, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, left, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Michael Mullen take part in briefing at the Pentagon. On Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010, Gates said Europeans' aversion to military force is limiting NATO's ability to fight effectively.

Associated Press

trains them.

"Should Congress take this action, strong, engaged and informed leadership will

be required at every level to properly and effectively implement a legislative change," he wrote. □



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Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky., heads for the weekly caucus lunch on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Bunning has again blocked the U.S. Senate from extending unemployment benefits and health insurance subsidies for the jobless.

Associated Press

JIM BUNNING

Continued from Front Page

He is retiring after this session and there isn't much anyone can do to keep him in line.

"I think the older he gets, the more cantankerous he becomes," said Kentucky Republican Larry Forgy, a two-time candidate for governor and one of Bunning's biggest admirers. "He's as tough as a pine knot. He doesn't care what they say about him."

It's not the first time Bunning

has made others cringe.

Last year, he had to apologize after he predicted Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, would be dead within a year.

During his 2004 re-election campaign, which he narrowly won, he said his Democratic opponent — Daniel Mongiardo, who is of Italian descent — looked "like one of Saddam Hussein's sons." He apologized for that, too.

Bunning also accused

Mongiardo of spreading rumors that he was mentally unfit to be a senator, a charge Mongiardo denied. The Courier-Journal ran an editorial questioning Bunning's "suitability" for office and wondering whether he had "drifted into territory that indicates a serious health concern." Bunning released letters from doctors vouching for his health.

He has feuded with Republican floor leader Mitch McConnell, the other senator from his state.

Bunning has also been known to curse at reporters. On Tuesday, ABC and CNN showed video of him refusing to talk to reporters about blocking the spending bill. "Excuse me!" he snapped. "This is a senators-only elevator." ABC said he gave the finger to one of its producers.

Few people in Kentucky, where the senator has been in politics for more than 30 years, were surprised last week when he stopped legislation that would have extended funding for a variety of federal programs, including the flood insurance

that many people in the nation's heartland rely on when the spring flood season arrives.

"He's cruel," said George Boyd, who lost his job a year ago and could be affected by the impasse. "He's heartless. He doesn't think about the needs of other people."

Bunning is so toxic that Republican leaders pushed him to retire when his second term is up at the end of the year.

At one point, he threatened to sue the party's national campaign arm if it backed a challenger in the Republican Party primary. But in July he relented and dropped his re-election bid, accusing his party colleagues of doing "everything in their power to dry up my fundraising."

University of Kentucky political scientist Donald Gross speculated that Bunning's effort to hold up the spending bill might reflect frustration that after two terms he has no notable legislative legacy and has essentially been forced into retirement. "He's always been an argumentative type of person, testy," Gross said.

"This may be his last hurrah, his last chance to take a slap at people before he leaves."

During his days with the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Phillies, for whom he pitched a perfect game in 1964, the right-hander who faced the likes of Ted Williams, Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris never hesitated to bean batters. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1996, the first pitcher to record 100 wins and 1,000 strikeouts in both the American and National Leagues. He is also a Xavier University-educated economist who has taken a hard line on fiscal issues.

He has been holding up the spending bill since Thursday, saying he objects because it requires borrowing money. Bunning proposed to pay for the extension with unspent money from last year's big economic recovery package, but Democrats objected.

By the Senate's rules, that single objection was enough to block the bill, at least temporarily.

Democrats have bashed him for stopping a measure of vital importance to down-on-their-luck Americans, and White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Tuesday: "I don't know how you negotiate with the irrational."

Bunning refused to budge, to the increasing discomfort of some fellow Republicans.

"He's hurting the American people," said Republican Sen. Susan Collins, when asked Tuesday if Bunning was hurting the Republican Party. He has also become fodder for late-night comedians, with Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" calling Bunning a "cranky obstructionist" and joking that he is "leaving the Senate to spend more time obstructing his family's progress."

But Forgy, of the Kentucky Republican Party, said Bunning should be praised: "It's the equivalent of hitting the mule between the eyes with a two-by-four to get its attention." □

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Iowa jury convicts man in football coach killing

By NIGEL DUARA

Associated Press Writer

ALLISON, Iowa — A jury found an Iowa man guilty Tuesday of first-degree murder in the shooting of a nationally known high school football coach.

It took the jury 24 hours over four days to reach its decision, finding Mark Becker, 24, guilty in the June 24, 2009, killing of Aplington-Parkersburg coach Ed Thomas.

Becker gunned down Thomas, 58, in the school's makeshift weight room in front of students, shooting him at least six times before walking away. Becker told police that Thomas was Satan and that the coach had been tormenting him.

Thomas' son, Aaron, said he was happy with the verdict but that Becker's conviction wouldn't ease the pain of losing his father.

"It's not that we feel better or safer. Nothing that happened is going to bring my dad back," Aaron Thomas said. "Our family is not over anything. The Becker family is not over anything."

The shooting was especially shocking to Parkersburg residents because Thomas was known both for producing winning teams and for leading the community.

He amassed a 292-84 record and two state titles in 37 seasons as a head coach — 34 of them at Aplington-Parkersburg — and coached four players who have played in the NFL. He also was a leader in rebuilding Parkersburg after nearly one-third of the 1,800-person town was wiped out in May 2008 by a tornado that killed six people.

Referring both to the conviction and to her son's struggles with paranoid schizophrenia, Becker's mother, Joan, said the past few years have been heartbreakingly difficult for our family to bear," Joan Becker said,

clasp her husband's and son Scott's hands.

Joan Becker said the "system

failed miserably" when her family sought help for Mark Becker's mental illness. □

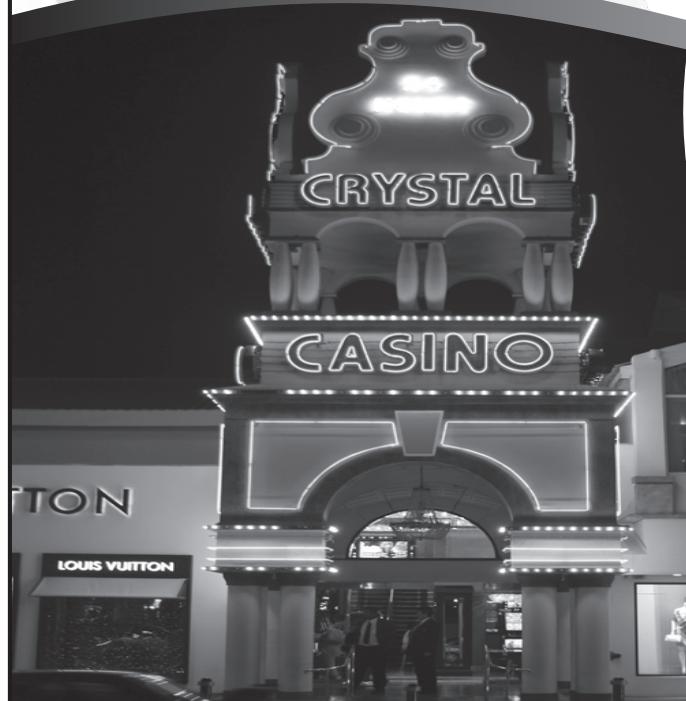
Mark Becker faces the jury as he is found guilty of first degree murder in the shooting death of Ed Thomas, Tuesday, March 2, 2010 in the Butler County Courthouse in Allison, Iowa. It took the jury 24 hours over four days to reach its decision, finding Becker, 24, guilty in the June 24, 2009, killing of Aplington-Parkersburg coach Ed Thomas.

Associated Press



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Jerusalem plan would demolish Palestinian homes



A view of the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Jerusalem's Mayor Nir Barkat has unveiled an ambitious development plan that would demolish dozens of Palestinian homes in Silwan to make way for a bustling tourist center, but agreed to a last-minute request from Israel's prime minister to consult Palestinian residents before breaking ground.

Associated Press

STEVEN GUTKIN

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jerusalem's mayor unveiled a plan Tuesday to demolish dozens of Palestinian homes to make room for a tourist center in one of the disputed city's most volatile neighborhoods, drawing criticism from Palestinians and the United Nations.

Mayor Nir Barkat agreed to a last-minute request from Israel's prime minister to consult Palestinian residents before breaking ground, a delay that could delay the plan for an unknown period of time. The postponement drew praise from the U.S. State Department, but the move still threatened to raise tensions in the holy city just as the Obama administration makes a push to renew Mideast peace talks.

"There is no way the Palestinians can accept the demolishing of houses in Jerusalem and the continuation of building settlements for the Jewish settlers, while the United States is trying to bring the parties together," Palestinian Cabinet minister Mohammed Ishtayeh told The Associated Press. "We fully and totally condemn all these Israeli measures."

At a news conference, Barkat presented his plan as a much needed upgrade of Jerusalem's decaying al-Bustan neighborhood, which Israeli officials have begun calling Gan Hamelech, or the King's Garden, linking it to the site where the biblical King David is said to have written his psalms.

The city wants to build shops, restaurants, art galleries and a large community center replete with day care facilities and gyms. Barkat said the area's Palestinian residents, subject to decades of neglect, will benefit, and that most of those who would lose their homes would be eligible for alternative housing, though it was unclear who would pay for it.

"The conditions in which these residents live are intolerable. The goal of the plan is to find solutions," said Barkat, a hawkish, secular politician who became mayor after amassing a fortune in hi-tech. But few Israeli moves in east Jerusalem are benign in Palestinian eyes. The Palestinians hope to make that part of the city — captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — the capital of a future state. They see Barkat's plan as another way for Israel to cement its control there. Israel annexed east Jerusalem immediately after capturing it, but no other country recognized the move.

Moussa Owdeh, a 58-year-old Palestinian whose home is one of 88 slated for demolition, accused Barkat of fomenting "extremism and bloodshed."

"This is our land and home," he said, holding up a document he said was the title to the property. "Our house is a symbol of our dignity." Apparently fearing stiff criticism from the U.S., Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on Barkat to hold the plan up for consultations with the affected Palestinians. Barkat agreed, and a State Department spokesman in Washington, D.C., praised that decision.

"We've noted that the Mayor is going to continue his discussions with the residents before proceeding with moving the plan through official processes. We appreciate his intervention," spokesman P.J. Crowley said, urging Israelis and Palestinians to refrain from steps that "undermine trust." □

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Clinton brings phones, promises to quake-hit Chile

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton made a small dent in Chile's growing needs following a massive earthquake, handing over 25 satellite phones Tuesday while promising more in the country's capital.

"We stand ready to help in any way that the government of Chile asks us to. We want to help Chile who has done so much to help others," Clinton said during a brief visit that took her nowhere near areas with heavy damage. She spent most of her time at an undamaged area of the airport.

Clinton toured an area of the airport where tea, flour and other supplies were being loaded into boxes for shipment to parts of the country where supplies are short.

Meeting with the country's president-elect, Clinton said she is sure Chile is handling the disaster well. "There is no doubt in my mind, as we stand here at an airport that thankfully is functioning and relief flights are coming in, that Chile is prepared, is dealing with this massive disaster and will be on the road to an even better recovery in the future," she said.

Clinton said there has been no discussion of sending U.S. troops to help distribute aid or

keep order, as was done in Haiti following the far more deadly earthquake there in January. She gave one of the donated phones directly to current President Michelle Bachelet, who had said shortly after Saturday's predawn quake that her country did not need much help from other nations. That changed as the magnitude of the disaster became clear — power, water, food and medical care are urgent needs in the country's second-largest city, Concepcion, and along a coast hit by both the quake and a resulting tsunami. The United States has pledged additional help, including a field hospital with surgical facilities that Clinton said is "ready to go."

The United States is sending more satellite phones, which work in areas where land lines and cell phone towers are out of commission. Chile identified the phones as a high priority, Clinton said.

Also on the way are eight water purification systems, generators, medical equipment and supplies. Other donations could include mobile kitchens, temporary bridges and helicopters. The amount of such aid will depend on what Chile requests, Clinton said.

If the initial U.S. donation seems small, U.S. officials say it is in part a reflection of Chile's initial reluctance to ask

for more. U.S. officials said Chile would not have to repay any U.S. assistance. Officials could not offer specifics as to when the additional U.S. aid would arrive.

Chile's neighbors have already acted.

Argentina on Monday flew in an Air Force C-130 with much of a hospital — including a surgical and intensive care unit, ambulance and laboratory — three water treatment plants and power generation units, the military announced.

Five other plane loads of aid were supposed to arrive by Tuesday night.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited Chile on Monday. He said a first plane load of aid would arrive Tuesday, followed later by a full army field hospital.

Peru said it was sending a mobile hospital and doctors with 15 tons of blankets and tents.

U.S. officials said they made clear to Chilean government officials soon after the quake that Washington was prepared to assist, but they also said privately that they were careful not to presuppose that Chile would want outside help or to give the impression of underestimating Chile's disaster preparedness.

Paul Simons, the U.S. ambassador in Santiago, told



US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, take part in a news conference at the airport in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday, March 2, 2010.

Associated Press

reporters at the State Department on Monday that the Chilean government had made it known on Sunday that it was prepared to accept foreign help.

Simons said the embassy is in touch with the foreign ministry in Santiago "on a continuous basis to see what exactly it is that Chile needs and to match that up with some of the resources that we have available."

Bachelet's recent requests for outside help come amid rising criticism that her government has been slow to reach with its own resources and slow to ask others to step in. Bachelet has said her government needed time to determine where the needs were greatest.

"We have these things in our country, but how can we get

them to the people if we don't have bridges and roads?" said Bachelet, who is nearing the end of her term in office.

Distribution of supplies is being done, Bachelet added, but "we need to do it very fast and get it to the remotest corners of the country and get it there soon." Lawlessness and hunger are on the rise. The central government was forced to send thousands of troops to guard against looting and other crime in Concepcion. Bachelet said it is impossible to know the extent of damage now, but that one estimate is that it will cost \$30 billion to rebuild.

With 2 million people affected and 500,000 homes damaged, "I can only say it will be a lot," Bachelet said. □

N. Ireland's Paisley to quit Parliament after 40 yrs



Former Democratic Unionist Party leader Dr Ian Paisley attends a DUP press conference at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast, Northern Ireland, Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. Northern Ireland's struggle to save its Catholic-Protestant administration hit another hurdle Monday as the major British Protestant party, the Democratic Unionists, unexpectedly held back from accepting a compromise deal on the table.

Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN (AP) — Ian Paisley, the hard-line Northern Ireland evangelist who led Protestants into power-sharing with Catholics, announced Tuesday he will retire from the British Parliament after

a 40-year career.

The 83-year-old Paisley spent decades opposing compromise with minority Catholics, particularly the Irish Republican Army supporters of Sinn Fein. He did a stunning U-turn in 2007 by forging a Northern Ireland administration

alongside Sinn Fein deputy leader Martin McGuinness. But within a year of that breathtaking moment, Paisley suffered a rapid political decline amid grumblings from his Protestant grass roots that he had gone too far — and seemed, in particular, to be enjoying working with McGuinness too much.

Paisley first was forced to step down as leader of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, the anti-Catholic church he founded in 1951. Then he retired as leader of the Democratic Unionists, an antiestablishment party he founded in 1971 and built into Northern Ireland's dominant party today. Finally he stepped aside as first minister of Northern Ireland's power-sharing coalition in favor of his Democratic Unionist successor, Peter Robinson. Paisley confirmed Tuesday he will vacate his final political post, as the parliamentary member

for rural North Antrim, following the British general election expected in May.

He has held the seat without serious challenge since 1970 — but his departure could set the scene for the next challenge to Northern Ireland's peace process. Paisley's son, Ian Jr., is favored to defend the seat for the Democratic Unionists. But a breakaway faction that opposes Paisley's shocking embrace of Sinn Fein, calling itself Traditional Unionist Voice, intends to run its leader Jim Allister as an underdog candidate.

Analysts agree that an Allister victory would destabilize Protestant support for power-sharing, the central accomplishment of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord.

In 2004, Allister succeeded the elder Paisley as the Democratic Unionists' representative in the European Parliament.

Allister resigned from the Democratic Unionists in 2007 to protest Paisley's surprise decision to form a Cabinet alongside Sinn Fein.

Paisley said he was saddened by Allister's defection and opposition, but defended his agreement with Sinn Fein as "the best possible deal in the circumstances."

"After a period of tough negotiations it was my view that, provided our conditions were met, the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland wanted me to do the deal. It was as simple as that," Paisley said.

Tributes poured in to Paisley from across the political divide, led by Britain's secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Shaun Woodward.

"He is a remarkable figure whose politics are born from the deepest principles and most fervently held conviction and who not only contributed to debate but often dominated it," Woodward said. "His decision to share government with Sinn Fein and to work as first minister with Martin McGuinness sent a beacon of optimism around the world."

Allister, who seeks to emulate Paisley's longtime policy of toppling any Protestant leaders who dared compromise, said many Protestants considered Paisley a hypocrite and a traitor to the cause of defending Northern Ireland's political union with Britain.

"For one who once championed traditional unionism — with such colorful pledges as Sinn Fein only getting into government over his dead body — sadly his abiding legacy will be of bequeathing Ulster a terrorist-inclusive government," Allister said.

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Guatemalan police chief, drug czar detained

JUAN CARLOS LLORCA

Associated Press Writer

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — Guatemala's national police chief and anti-drug czar were detained Tuesday in a case of stolen cocaine that led to the deaths of five police agents.

Attorney General Amilcar Velasquez told The Associated Press that Police Chief Baltazar Gonzalez, anti-drug czar Nelly Bonilla and a third, unidentified official were being held "for being linked to the robbery of drugs in Amatitlan in March 2009."

None of the three had been charged.

Velasquez did not describe how the death of the agents was related to the stolen cocaine in Amatitlan, just south of Guatemala City and officials did not immediately give details about the case.

Gonzalez is the second national police chief to be detained for alleged drug ties in the past year. In September, Porfirio Perez was suspended and later detained for

allegedly stealing \$300,000 from smugglers. He is awaiting trial.

Tuesday's arrests rocked the government of leftist President Alvaro Colom only days before he is scheduled to discuss his country's drug war with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who will visit Guatemala as part of her tour through Latin America this week.

On Sunday, Colom fired Interior Minister Raul Velasquez, who had signed a \$6.2 million contract with a private company to buy fuel for the country's national police. Authorities say the company embezzled the money. Velasquez was not charged with any wrongdoing.

Guatemala has long struggled to battle corruption among top law enforcement officials overseeing the fight against drug trafficking gangs.

Velasquez said Tuesday's arrests were the result of an investigation by Guatemalan authorities and the U.N.-sponsored International



A soldier stands guard at the crime scene where the bodies of six alleged drug traffickers were killed in Santa Elena Barillas, outskirts of Guatemala City, Wednesday Feb. 25, 2010. According to the police, four men and two women were found shot to death inside a vehicle.

Associated Press

Commission Against Impunity.

At the time of the March 2009 gunbattle, police said it involved members of the Zetas, a group of hit men linked to Mexico's powerful Gulf cartel, which has extended its operations into Guatemala in recent

years after coming under pressure from Mexican President Felipe Calderon's drug war.

After the shootout in Amatitlan, police said they seized automatic weapons and about 500 rocket-launch grenades. □

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'Precious' in 3-D? Filmmakers predict 3-D dramas

By JAKE COYLE,
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK — Movies are evolving ever more into 3-D, a shake-up of the medium that has been compared to the advent of sound or color in motion pictures.

But if digital 3-D is so revolutionary, it will need to go beyond fantasy and animated blockbusters to

drama and live action comedy. Explorations of Pandora may seem like the stuff of three-dimension wizardry, but what of a domestic drama such as "Precious" or a character-driven movie such as "An Education"? When color was widely introduced to Hollywood moviemaking in the 1930s, was first used predominantly

in musicals and other films thought to be perfect platforms for rainbow hues. Many filmmakers are predicting a similar genre expansion for 3-D.

"We see in depth, for the most part. We go to the theater — it's in depth. Why couldn't a film like 'Precious' be in 3-D? It should be," says Martin Scorsese.

Drug tests pending in Marie Osmond son's LA death



FILE - Entertainer Marie Osmond speaks at a North Little Rock, Ark., Sam's Club store in this April 27, 2005 file photo. Osmond's 18-year-old son Michael Blosil has died, the entertainer said Saturday Feb. 27, 2010. Osmond said in a statement through her publicist that her family is devastated by the 'tragic loss.' She did not provide details on the death.

(AP Photo/Danny Johnston, File)

By ROBERT JABLON,
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES — Toxicology tests will determine whether drugs or alcohol played a role in the death of Marie Osmond's 18-year-old son, who police said jumped to his death from a downtown apartment building, a coroner's official said Monday.

Michael Blosil left a suicide note before he leaped from the eighth floor of the building on Friday night, said police Lt. Paul Vernon.

Vernon said he did not have details of the note.

"It was fairly obvious this appeared to be a suicide, based

upon witness statements," he said. Coroner's officials were investigating the case as a suicide, but an autopsy conducted Sunday did not officially determine the cause of death pending the results of toxicology tests, which could take up to two months, said Los Angeles County Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter.

"He fell to his death from a balcony, eight stories," Winter said, but officials "just want to make sure that he wasn't drunk or something and walked out of his balcony and fell."

"Is it an accident or is it a suicide?" Winter asked. "We just want to make sure that there's nothing that we missed."

Blosil was a first-year student of apparel manufacturing at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising, said college spokeswoman Shirley Wilson. A floral memorial was placed in the school's rotunda in his honor.

Blosil and other students lived at the Metropolitan apartments on Flower Street, Wilson said. The complex, known as "The Met," has a 24-hour doorman and a balcony for every apartment, along with a spa, pool and other luxuries.

Details of Blosil's death were not immediately released, but Vernon said there was no indication that he had been attending a party or other event where he might have been drinking.

There have been conflicting reports about whether Blosil may have struggled with depression. Vernon said he did not have any information.

Osmond revealed in 2007 that her son had entered rehab but didn't say specifically what he was being treated for.

"He's dealing with a lot of issues," she told CNN's Larry King at the time. "I don't feel comfortable talking for him. I think he'll have to deal with that."

Osmond did say one of the issues troubling him was the fact that he was adopted. "He is the most amazing kid ...," she added before beginning to cry.

Osmond herself has struggled with depression over the years, as she disclosed in her 2001 book, "Behind the Smile: My Journey Out of Postpartum Depression."

Blosil was one of Osmond's five adopted children. She also has three other children from two marriages. Osmond divorced Brian Blosil in 2007 after two decades of marriage. She and her first husband, Stephen Craig, divorced in 1985.

In a statement after his death, Osmond said she and her family were in shock. Her publicist declined to provide any additional comment from Osmond on Monday.

Osmond earned fame at age 13 with the hit song "Paper Roses," and starred with her brother, Donny, on television's "Donny and Marie Show" during the 1970s.

The siblings perform a musical variety show regularly at the Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino. The hotel said the shows were canceled over the weekend and performances would resume on March 9. □



In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, left, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, 'Avatar.'

(AP Photo/20th Century Fox)

Like many seasoned moviegoers, Scorsese has lived through earlier fads of 3-D.

3-D actually predates cinema — stereoscopic photography was developed in the mid 19th century — but it fused only occasionally with motion pictures before the 1950s. There was explosion of 3-D films between 1952-1955, an era kicked off by 1952's "Bwana Devil," a drama set in British East Africa about big-game hunters pursuing lions on the loose.

Many of the 3-D movies of the '50s and those that followed in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s are defined by their shlock — from "Taza, Son of Cochise" in 1954 to "Amityville 3-D" in 1983. But there have been dramatic films made in 3-D, too, perhaps most notably Alfred Hitchcock's "Dial M for Murder" (1954). Most saw it in 2-D, but it included one memorable effect of Grace Kelly's hand coming out from the screen in a pivotal moment. Based on a stage play with one interior setting, "Dial M for Murder" could be a blueprint for contemporary filmmakers adapting 3-D to non-action movies.

In the 1990s, IMAX expanded 3-D, both throughout the country and literally across giant screens. The process was awkward — cameras weighed over 250 pounds — but created life-size images that made the viewer a part of the scene. 1995's "Wings of Courage," a 40-minute movie about a downed pilot that starred Craig Sheffer and Val Kilmer, was the first IMAX 3-D fictional

film. Reviewing it, The New York Times wrote that "of course" 3-D was not the future of movies, "at least until those headsets turn into something more comfortable."

Digital filmmaking ushered in the latest in 3-D, and James Cameron's "Avatar" (nominated for nine Oscars at Sunday's Academy Awards) has been its "Jazz Singer." 3-D's increasing expansion in moviemaking is ubiquitous. Some 20 films will be released in 3-D this year, with more in 2011. Studios are looking into their vaults to reissue classics in 3-D. Theaters are making more screens 3-D capable.

"It's just another tool. In fact, I'm very interested in kind of exploring it on some other levels, because it's like sound," says Tim Burton, whose "Alice in Wonderland" was made in 2-D but converted to 3-D for theatrical release. "3-D is just another element to draw you in a little bit more, that's all."

Cameron, himself, has been adamant that the technology can apply to all kinds of films — that it's an effect less driven by expanding depth of field and more tied to deepening focus. To expand on this, he's producing a film titled "Sanctum" about a father and son diving team. Though it will include numerous underwater scenes, Cameron calls it "a drama, a love story."

Not everyone is sold on 3-D. Critic Roger Ebert has called it "a waste of a perfectly good dimension." Though he gave "Avatar" a good review and mostly applauded its use of 3-D, he has questioned the technology's benefits. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks rise on merger activity, Greece hopes



FILE - In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, office workers are silhouetted against the widow of the Lehman Brothers headquarters in New York. More than a year after Lehman Brothers' collapse set off a financial panic, Senate negotiators are laboring to seal a deal over a consumer protection dispute holding up broad legislation to establish new rules for Wall Street.

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, file)

By TIM PARADIS
and STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks rose for a third day Tuesday as corporate takeover activity signaled that the economy is recovering.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 30 points in afternoon trading to erase its losses for 2010.

Merger activity lifted stocks for a second day. CF Industries repeated a buyout offer for fertilizer maker Terra Industries, which last month agreed to be sold to Norway's Yara for \$4.1 billion. Many investors see takeovers as a sign of strength in the economy.

Technology shares got a boost from Qualcomm Inc., which said it would buy back \$3 billion in stock. The maker of wireless chips and other

mobile technology also raised its dividend by 12 percent. Markets got a lift from upbeat economic reports in Asia and growing hopes European leaders will complete a bailout for Greece.

Greece's debt problems have tugged at markets around the world for more than a month. Concern grew that the country's debt problems would spread and upend a global recovery. Growing expectations that Germany will lead a rescue for Greece have eased concerns for traders.

"If Greece continues to create a long-term plan, it will get the market back on track," said Bryan Hopkins, president of Hopkins Wealth Management Group in Anaheim Hills, Calif. He said a plan to help Greece get its budget under control could become a blueprint for other countries that face similar problems.

There was other welcome news from overseas. Japan's unemployment rate dropped for the second straight month in January and household spending grew, both hopeful signs for the world's second-largest economy. Australia's central bank continued to reduce stimulus measures as that nation's economy rebounds. The bank raised a key interest rate to 4 percent.

The array of reports about dealmaking and improvements in economic readings are clues for investors who are trying to determine how fast a recovery will take place. A long climb in the stock market began to stall in mid-January following mixed economic reports and concern about debt in Greece and other relatively weak European economies like Portugal and Spain.

On Monday, major stock market indexes closed at their highest levels in more than a month and the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index erased their losses for the year. But the gains have come in light trading volume. That indicates many investors are staying out of the market as they await more evidence about the economy.

In midafternoon trading, the Dow rose 28.19, or 0.3 percent, to 10,431.98. It is up less than 0.1 percent for 2010. The broader S&P 500 index rose 7.29, or 0.7 percent, to 1,123.00, and the Nasdaq rose 17.87, or 0.8 percent, to 2,291.44.

Bond prices fell, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.64 percent from 3.61 percent late Monday. The dollar mostly fell against other major currencies. Gold prices rose.

Crude oil rose \$1.29 to \$79.99 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks rose Monday after American International Group agreed to sell its Asian life insurance business for \$35.5 billion. The bailed-out insurer is selling off divisions to help repay government loans.

Darell Krasnoff, managing director at Bel Air Investment Advisors in Los Angeles, said the advance after the slide in January and early February are a sign that the market needed a break before it could proceed. Still, he said that investors still feel burned by the slide in 2008 and early 2009 and have concerns about the economy. That could unravel the climb. "There is still tremendous anxiety about the state of the global economy," he said. □



FILE - In this July 14, 2009 file photo, a Chevrolet HHR SS sits on display in the Renaissance Center in which General Motors has its headquarters in Detroit. General Motors Co. says its February sales rose 11.5 percent compared with the same month last year thanks to new models and pent-up demand from rental car companies and other fleet buyers.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, file)

Toyota's pain is rivals' sales gain in February

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
and DAN STRUMPF,
AP Auto Writers

DETROIT — Toyota's pain is its rivals' gain. The auto industry reported higher U.S. sales in February and scooped up customers from the Japanese automaker, which has been struggling with a massive safety recalls. Toyota Motor Corp. said its U.S. sales fell 9 percent last month, making it the only automaker to sell fewer cars and trucks in February. Ford, GM, Nissan and Honda all reported double-digit sales growth last month compared with a year earlier, at the depth of the recession. The gains may have been even higher without the blizzards that slowed traffic to showrooms. Other winners included Kia Motors Corp. and Subaru. Even struggling Chrysler Group LLC saw improvement. Toyota, by contrast, suspended sales of eight popular models in late January. And it spent last week answering question about its safety record in front of Congress. "We feel we're getting our fair share of the Toyota business," said Susan Docherty, vice president of sales and marketing at GM, whose sales rose nearly 12 percent. February was the first full month since Toyota's Jan. 26 decision to halt sales of some of its vehicles in the U.S. because of safety concerns. Those vehicles went on sale again as dealers repaired them, but Toyota's image suffered from the recall of millions of vehicles and congressional hearings on its safety record. The Japanese automaker jacked up incentive spending to lure buyers. Ford Motor Co. posted a 43 percent jump in February U.S. auto sales and outsold General Motors Co. for the first time in nearly a dozen years as it grabbed customers from struggling Toyota. Ford sold 334 more cars than GM in the U.S. for the first time since August 1998, when GM was in the midst of a strike. Chrysler, meanwhile, said its February sales rose half a percent, its first year-over-year monthly increase since December of 2007. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

APNewsBreak: Many maple bats get banned in minors

By BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Many maple bats will be banned in the minor leagues this season, part of Major League Baseball's push to stop shattered shards of wood from flying dangerously through the air.

New regulations will prohibit bats made from ultra-light maple. The low-density wood often is found in bats with big barrels and thin handles, creating a whip-like action when swung.

Softer red maple and silver maple — not commonly used — will be completely eliminated by the 30-plus companies approved to make bats.

The bans apply to players who are not on 40-man rosters and have no major league experience. Baseball often tests new rules on minor leaguers, be it drug tests or pace-of-game ideas, because most of them are not in the MLB players' union and such moves do not require union approval.

Continued on Page 14



Chicago Cubs pitching instructor Mike Mason sniffs a broken bat hit back to the pitching mound during workouts at the team's spring training baseball facility Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in Mesa, Ariz.

Associated Press

James files papers to switch from No. 23 to No. 6

LeBron James' back will be different next season. The Cleveland Cavaliers can only hope the logo on the front of his jersey remains the same.

James has filed paperwork with the NBA to change his uniform number next season to No. 6 from No. 23, the league confirmed Tuesday. James said earlier this season he would be willing to give up No. 23 in an effort to have the NBA retire it in honor of Michael Jordan.

Paperwork had to be filed

this week to request a number change for next season.

"All it does is back up LeBron's beliefs," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "He's a loyalty guy. When he believes in something, he sticks to his guns and he believes wholeheartedly in what he's doing."

James can become a free agent this summer. He would only need the league's approval to change numbers if he remains in Cleveland. Should he sign with another team, James would be allowed to choose any

available number without needing approval.

He dismissed a question about his future shortly after the Cavaliers beat the Knicks 124-93 Monday night.

"I stopped answering free agent questions a long time ago," he said.

James, who declined interview requests on Tuesday, is going from one famous number to another. Julius Erving and Bill Russell both wore No. 6. "The first thing I think of is Dr. J," Brown said.

James wore No. 6 with the U.S. Olympic team and wears it every day in practice. He isn't the first superstar to change numbers mid-career. Among others, Jordan briefly wore No. 45 after coming out of retirement with the Bulls, and Kobe Bryant more recently switched from No. 8 to No. 24.

"We remember the 8 on Kobe, but we also know the 24," Cavaliers point guard Mo Williams said. "After a year or two, people will look past the old number and let it rest with Jordan." □



Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James dunks the ball in the first quarter in an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks Monday, March 1, 2010, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP) — The number on



In this Oct. 25, 2009, photo, Chicago Bears tackle Orlando Pace (76) works against Cincinnati Bengals' Michael Johnson during an NFL football game in Cincinnati. The Bears have waived former All-Pro tackle Pace after one season in which he was limited to 11 games because of injuries. The Bears also waived tight end Fontel Mines and guard Tyler Reed on Monday, March 1.

Associated Press

Bears waive former All-Pro tackle Orlando Pace

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears waived tackle Orlando Pace after one season in which the 34-year-old played little like the All-Pro he once was with St. Louis.

The Bears also waived tight end Fontel Mines and guard Tyler Reed on Monday.

Chicago signed Pace last season as a free agent to help patch up a faulty offensive line, but the fading star didn't provide much help. He started 11 games, missed time because of a groin injury and finished his 13th NFL season as a reserve.

Pace was a seven-time Pro Bowl selection with the Rams and one of the best offensive tackles in the league. He was drafted No. 1 overall out of Ohio State in 1997 and went on to play in two Super Bowls with St. Louis. □

Lidstrom lifts Red Wings over Avalanche, 3-2

DENVER — The Detroit Red Wings are healthy and ready to make a run at the playoffs.

That might be bad news for the rest of the NHL.

Nicklas Lidstrom scored a power-play goal with 9:03 left in the third period and lifted the Red Wings past Colorado on Monday night and put themselves into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Tomas Holmstrom had a goal and two assists, Pavel Datsyuk had two assists and Jimmy Howard made 22 saves for Detroit, which won the first NHL game since Feb. 14 when the NHL took a two-week break for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The Red Wings, who came within a game last season of repeating as Stanley Cup champions, know they have to start winning to get a chance at another title.

"We've got to make a decision that we want to get in," coach Mike Babcock said. "We've got enough bodies now that we should be a good hockey club. We've got to decide to be a good hockey club."

The Red Wings have been hurt by injuries all year, but they've gotten key reinforcements back. Monday, Johan Franzen scored his fourth goal in just his seventh game and Andres Lilja returned after missing the whole season with a concussion.

"We know there's not much time left and we need to make a push," Howard said. "We feel like all we have to do is get into the playoffs and we'll be a dangerous team. No one's going to want to face us."

Detroit needs to make the playoffs first, and it had to grit out a win against Colorado.

The game was tied when Colorado defenseman Kyle Quincey drew a minor

penalty for tripping with 10:01 remaining. Lidstrom's low shot 58 seconds later beat goalie Craig Anderson for the game-winner.

"When Pav got it back he had two guys lay in front of him so I just followed in behind him and he laid a pretty nice drop pass," Lidstrom said. "I didn't shoot it hard I just wanted to make sure it got through." The Red Wings needed Lidstrom's heroics after Colorado wiped out a 2-0 deficit with second-period goals by Chris Stewart and T.J. Galiardi.

"I felt our energy level got better as the game went on," Avalanche coach Joe Sacco said. "We played a team tonight that was very desperate for points."

The Red Wings scored twice in the first period before Colorado rallied in the second. Galiardi knocked a rebound through Howard's legs to make it 2-1 with his 10th goal of the season.

The Avalanche got even when Stewart's slapshot from the left circle beat Howard at 11:14 of the period, his 20th goal of the year.

"We showed good character to come back, especially against a team like Detroit," Galiardi said.

Both teams had chances to take the lead late in the second. Detroit defenseman Brad Stuart intercepted a pass on a Colorado two-on-one and Anderson stretched to make a right pad save on Franzen, who couldn't lift the puck into the open net. Detroit looked in control at the start. Holmstrom scored his 17th goal when he took a pass from Datsyuk and beat Anderson with a quick shot in the top left corner to make it 1-0 6:06 into the game.

Franzen made it 2-0 on the power play when he beat Anderson in the same spot at 12:40 of the first period.

Detroit had a goal waved off when the officials ruled Holmstrom had incidental contact with Anderson with 13:32 left in the second period.

"Homer was in the paint and (referee) Kerry Fraser said he didn't allow the goalie to play," Babcock said. "That's the rule. You've got to be outside the paint."

Two minutes later, Galiardi scored to get Colorado on the board.

But the Red Wings prevailed, and now they're ready to make noise in the Western Conference playoff race.

"That's the best lineup we've dressed all year," Babcock said. "Wouldn't you love to draw us in the first round?" □



Colorado Avalanche defenseman Adam Foote, left, challenges Detroit Red Wings left winger Tomas Holmstrom, of Sweden, to a fight after Holmstrom drew a penalty in front of the Avalanche net in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Denver on Monday, March 1, 2010.

Associated Press

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This Jan. 20, 2010, file photo shows Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson during an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

Iverson will not return to Sixers

DAN GELSTON
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Allen Iverson's second stint with the Philadelphia 76ers ended on Tuesday when the team announced he would not return for the rest of the NBA season.

Iverson has mostly been absent from the team for a month, returning to Atlanta to be with his family as they deal with an undisclosed illness of his 4-year-old daughter, Messiah.

Iverson, who returned as a free-agent to the 76ers in December, has not played since Feb. 20.

"After discussing the situation with Allen, we have come to the conclusion that he will not return to the Sixers for the remainder of the season, as he no longer wishes to be a distraction to the organization and teammates that he loves very deeply," team president Ed Stefanski said. "It has been very difficult for Allen and the team to maintain any consistency as he tries to balance his career with his personal life."

The former NBA MVP and four-time scoring champion averaged 13.8 points in 28 games this season. He started the season with the Memphis Grizzlies but played only three games before he announced a short-lived retirement. □

NBA Roundup

Suns bench keys win over Nuggets

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns bench players keyed a second-quarter comeback from a double-digit deficit to beat the Denver Nuggets 101-85 in the NBA on Monday.

Goran Dragic scored 10 first-half points off the bench and the reserves scored 24 of 33 second-quarter points.

Amare Stoudemire had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Suns, who won their fifth straight at home and their sixth in seven games overall. Phoenix has won 10 straight at home against the Nuggets dating to 2003-04.

Hawks 116, Bulls 92

In Chicago, Atlanta pulled away after being challenged in the fourth quarter and comfortably beat Chicago.

Jamal Crawford scored 21 points and Josh Smith added 17 points and a season-high 18 rebounds for the Hawks, whose 18-point, second-quarter lead was cut to five early in the fourth.

Derrick Rose led the Bulls with 24 points despite missing most of the first quarter after hurting his right knee.

Mavericks 89, Bobcats 84

In Charlotte, North Carolina, surging Dallas spoiled Charlotte's first game since Michael Jordan agreed to buy the team.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 27

MAPLE BATS

Continued from Page 12

MLB and the union have been extensively studying the issue of broken maple bats since 2008, as splintered barrels wildly helicopered all over the field and into the stands.

"I think all bats are dangerous," said Los Angeles Dodgers first baseman John Lindsey, who has spent 15 years in the minors without a major league call-up. "It's not like maple was the first bat to break. At times, they just look crazy, but when bats break they fly all the time, no matter what kind of wood."

As part of the safety initiative, any big leaguer whose bat broke at least 10 times last year must consult with a panel of MLB and union bat experts to determine if there is some extenuating problem. Baseball also is changing the specifications for all bats, slimming the maximum diameter of the barrel from 2.75 inches — which had been the standard for



Phoenix Suns center Amare Stoudemire, right, attempts a shot over Denver Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin, left, in the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 1, 2010, in Phoenix. The Suns won 101-85.

Associated Press

points and Jason Terry had several key late baskets for the Mavericks, who notched an eighth straight win despite trailing by 12 points in the third quarter. Stephen Jackson scored 20 points, but also had six of Charlotte's 20 turnovers. The Bobcats dropped to 0-

more than 100 years — to 2.61 inches. Trying to change the geometry of bats, the minimum size of bat handles is being increasing by about 1-50th of an inch. Those changes aren't expected to have any impact on the bats that players currently use.

"We're not taking the bat out of anyone's hands," union lawyer Bob Lenaghan said Monday night.

Commissioner Bud Selig said in May 2008 that shattered maple bats were "a source of concern for me." A safety panel of MLB and union officials began studying the issue with the USDA Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory and other experts.

More than 2,200 bats broken in the majors during the final 2 1/2 months of the 2008 season were studied and catalogued, as was every cracked bat in the big leagues last year, said Dan Halem, MLB senior vice president and general counsel for labor.

The Cavs didn't miss the 15-time All-Star, who had surgery on his injured right thumb Monday and is expected to miss two months. The team is hopeful he will return for at least part of the playoffs.

LeBron James had 22 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Cleveland, which notched its biggest winning margin of the season.

The Cavaliers equaled a season high with its 74-point first half as well as outrebounding New York 60-31 and leading by as much as 49. They have won eight straight against New York.

Reserve Bill Walker scored 21 points for the Knicks.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Portland erased a 14-point first-half deficit with a strong third quarter and defeated Memphis.

Brandon Roy scored 25 points and Nicolas Batum added 21 as the Trail Blazers ended their five-game road trip with four victories.

In other NBA games it was, Dallas 89, Charlotte 84; Cleveland 124, New York 93; Orlando 126, Philadelphia 105; Atlanta 116, Chicago 92; Portland 103, Memphis 93; San Antonio 106, New Orleans 92; Houston 116, Toronto 92; Phoenix 101, Denver 85; and L.A. Clippers 108, Utah 104. □

Guidelines were put into effect last year to govern the quality of wood grain. Halem said maple bats cracked about one-third less often last year, particularly in the second half of the season as bat makers complied.

Bats made of maple and ash cracked at about the same rate, he said, but maple was more likely to break into pieces.

"We want to keep doing more for safety," Halem said.

Oakland outfielder Ryan Sweeney felt for the minor leaguers who might need to find new bats in 2010.

"That's brutal. I know they did stuff with the two-tone bats last year and I saw more bats break in spring training than ever before," he said. "I use both and it depends on what I feel like. Some guys say the maple bats are better but it doesn't matter to me."

Cleveland utilityman Chris Gimenez made his major league debut last year and will be exempt from the maple bat rules.

Venus Williams wins Billie Jean King Cup, beats Clijsters

BETH RUCKER,
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Serena Williams' injured leg kept her from a chance to avenge her U.S. Open loss to Kim Clijsters, so sister Venus took care of the job on Monday.

Venus Williams defeated Clijsters 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 at Madison Square Garden to win the Billie Jean King Cup in the BNP Paribas Showdown.

Serena Williams withdrew a week ago because of her leg, ending what would have been the first meeting between her and Clijsters since the U.S. Open semifinals in September when the American unleashed a tirade against a line judge after she was called for a foot fault near the end of the match. Clijsters went on to win the championship.

The 26-year-old Belgian struggled early against the elder Williams before finding a groove in front of a very Venus-friendly crowd of 11,702 in the second set. "In the beginning it took some time to find an aggressive game," Clijsters said. "If you're not feeling the ball 100 percent, it's

very hard. I kind of just had to look for my game a little bit, really look for my position on court. I got better as my match went on."

Williams broke Clijsters in the first game and then held each of her serves to win the first set.

In the second set, Williams again won the first two games but got sloppy, volleying one break point wide and hitting another past the baseline. Clijsters held her serve for the rest of the set to win.

Williams was down 3-4 in the final set but broke back when Clijsters hit a volley into the net on break point. The pair held their serve the rest of the way until Clijsters, down 15-40, hit the break point long to hand Williams the win and \$400,000 of the \$1.2 million prize money.

"I always feel really confident on match point, so I love getting to that match point," Williams said. "At quadruple match point I felt nice."

King did not attend the exhibition because she is recovering from a recent double-knee replacement. Earlier, Clijsters beat Ana Ivanovic 7-6 in the first

of the one-set semifinals, outscoring the 22-year-old Serb and 2008 French Open champion 7-2 in the tiebreaker.

Down 5-4, Clijsters came from 0-30 to hold serve and won the next two games. Ivanovic won the 12th game to force the tiebreaker.

"Our games in some ways are similar," Ivanovic said. "It was a tough match. I was actually very nervous, but it makes it an important match. I just wanted to do so well."

Williams beat third-ranked Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2009 French Open winner, in the second semifinal 6-4. Kuznetsova took a 2-0 lead but struggled with her serve. Down 15-40 in the final game, the 24-year-old Russian double-faulted on her serve to hand Williams the match.

"You would like for it to last a little bit longer because one set is very difficult to play," Kuznetsova said. "It was fun. The match was close, and I enjoyed the experience."

Before the final, the International Tennis Hall of Fame inductees Gigi Fernandez, Owen Davidson and Brad Parks were



Venus Williams holds the Billie Jean King Cup after beating Kim Clijsters 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in the final of the tennis exhibition Monday, March 1, 2010, at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

introduced on court. They are part of the 2010 class announced Monday that includes doubles specialists

Todd Woodbridge, Mark Woodforde and Natasha Zvereva. □

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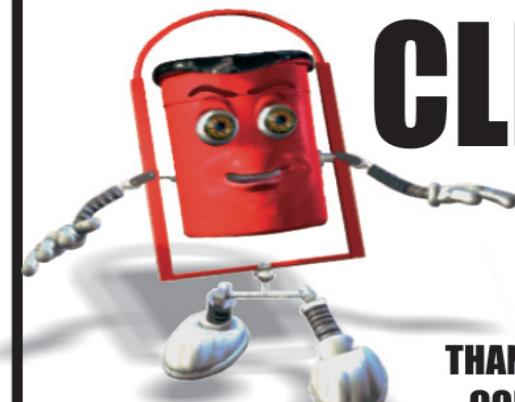
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SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

“Sugar” Shane-“Pretty Boy” Floyd already getting physical

DAVE SKRETTA
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Music blared over the loudspeakers, smoke billowed across the stage, and the curtain dropped to reveal Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Shane Mosley dressed to the nines as a crowd of several thousand inside the Nokia Theater let out a roar. They won't meet in the ring until May 1 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, but the first stop on a whirlwind, three-city publicity tour Tuesday included plenty of pomp and pizazz.

Fireworks, too.

After lengthy introductions that would have made silver-tongued Michael Buffer blushing, the unbeaten Mayweather and the welterweight champion Mosley sauntered to the middle of the stage and stood face to face. Jawing turned to pointing, pointing turned to shoving, and before long, promoters from both camps were rushing forward to separate them.

Perhaps the altercation was staged, but it's hard to fake the animosity between them. “The thing is this: He may be the champ, but we all know belts don't do nothing but collect dust,” Mayweather said, smiling. “I'm in the check-cashing business, baby.” Both should be able to cash hefty checks after this fight, arguably the biggest in the sport not involving Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather and Mosley have been circling each other for years, and the possibility they would finally meet really gained traction when Mosley crashed a post-fight interview after Mayweather defeated Juan Manuel Marquez last September.

Richard Schaefer of Golden Boy Promotions brazenly predicted the fight will do 3



Floyd Mayweather, left, and current WBA welterweight super champion Shane Mosley exchange words during a news conference in New York, Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The press conference was to promote their May 1, 2010 fight in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Associated Press

million pay-per-views, which would shatter the record set by Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya in 2007.

“We have the two best American fighters of our generation,” Schaefer said. “Mayweather has become a household name, let's face it. Love him or hate him, he's a household name. And with Shane Mosley, you have the perfect dance partner.”

The fight came together after weeks of negotiations between Mayweather and Pacquiao failed to produce an agreement. The Filipino fighter refused Olympic-style drug testing — Mayweather's camp has accused Pacquiao of using performance-enhancing

drugs — and he will instead fight Joshua Clottey on March 13 at Cowboys Stadium.

When potentially the richest fight in boxing history fell through, Mayweather (40-0, 25 KOs) turned to the next biggest attraction in the loaded 66.7-kilogram (147-pound) division.

Mosley (46-5, 39 KOs) was supposed to face Andre Berto in a unification fight in January, but Berto's family was severely impacted by the earthquake in Haiti, forcing him to back out.

“It's been a long time since I got a chance to show the world that I'm the best fighter, and that's all that I really want, to be the best,” Mosley said.

“I'm going to take my hat off to Mayweather, because I didn't think I was ever going to get a fight from any of these top fighters. He said, ‘Yeah man, I'll take that challenge. I'll fight you.’”

Both fighters will undergo random blood testing, which they claim will set a new standard for safety in boxing.

Such an agreement perked some eyebrows considering Mosley has acknowledged unintentionally using steroids before defeating De La Hoya in 2003. Mosley claims it was a mistake made by a strength coach connected to the BALCO lab, and insisted again Tuesday that he lives a clean life — even before

Mayweather dredged up the past. “I can't say how many fights Shane has won in the past because we know Shane was using enhancement drugs. That's something we do know,” Mayweather said. “It's no different than Pacquiao. I offered Pacquiao the fight. I said, ‘We'll give you \$25 million.’ I never met a man who wouldn't take a \$25 million drug test.”

While it's hard to forget about the failed fight with Pacquiao, there are plenty of signs that the best alternative is quickly gaining mainstream attention.

Schaefer said the sponsorship portfolio already includes AT&T and StubHub, and that about 14,000 tickets were snatched up Tuesday in the first 15 minutes they were on sale. HBO is also planning the eighth installment of its Emmy-winning “24/7” series during the weeks leading up to the fight, offering behind-the-scenes access to each fighter's training camp.

Then there's the publicity tour, which moves to Washington, D.C., on Wednesday before wrapping up Thursday in Los Angeles.

“This fight reminds me of back in the days of Sugar Ray Leonard and Tommy Hearns, the fights we saw back in the day, the classic fights that brought boxing back,” said De La Hoya, president of Golden Boy Promotions, which counts Mosley as a partner.

De La Hoya wasn't shy about a prediction, either.

“I've fought both fighters and I already know what's going to happen,” he said, invoking Mayweather's former “Pretty Boy” nickname. “I already know there's going to be a knockout, I already know, and it ain't going to be ‘pretty.’”

On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Additional charter service from Canada

Summer program by Thomas Cook to be operated by Westjet

ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has confirmed additional summer charter service from Canada by Canadian Tour Operator, Thomas Cook, to be operated by Westjet. The charter program will be in effect from May 1, 2010 through October 30, 2010 between Toronto and Aruba. Westjet will operate the flight with a B737-700 or 800 aircraft with either 136 or 166 seats configured on board. The flights are scheduled to depart on Saturdays at 13:20 local Toronto Time and arrive in Aruba at 18:19 local time.

The Canadian market has been a consistent market for Aruba for the past few years. Even though it is primarily a seasonal charter market, our Tour Operators have proved that there is opportunity for year round operations as well.

"We are extremely pleased receiving the slot request from Westjet for additional charter service from Canada" said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA, "we are confident that it will not be long before we will have year round scheduled service from Toronto and are working with our tourism partners in achieving this goal together." □



Technical problems add to the tensions among employees

Venezuela threatens closure of Isla Refinery in Curaçao

If the Dutch continue to allow US provocation



ORANJESTAD — Curaçao Refinery Isla is in the center of attention (again) after a black out forcibly stopped all production. This comes after the Minister of Oil of Venezuela Rafael Ramirez already threatened to close down the refinery if The Netherlands allows for US provocations against Venezuela from Curaçao.

The Isla Refinery is operated by the Venezuela State Oil Company PDVSA, which has a lease until 2019.

Venezuela has been accusing The Kingdom of The Netherlands for participating in an apparent threat toward the South American country by permitting US military bases in Curaçao and Aruba.

Despite numerous attempts to convince the Venezuelan authorities otherwise, the government of Hugo Chavez is convinced the Forward Operation Locations activities on our islands mask the real intention of the US, namely to prepare an invasion on Venezuelan soil.

Minister Ramirez warned that PDVSA would close down the refinery in case the Netherlands does continue to allow the presence of the US military threat. "Our Foreign Affairs notified Curaçao and Aruba that we are extremely pending on how they are allowing their territories to be used for provocations against our country.

Continued on Next Page



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Venezuela threatens closure of Isla Refinery in Curaçao



Continued from Page B1

The Isla Refinery has a capacity to process 335,000 barrels of oil a day, according to the PDVSA officials. However, information from Curaçao indicates the refinery refines an average of 190,000 to 220,000 barrels a day.

The tension escalated in Curacao on Monday, when that island's utility company, CUC suffered a black out and as result, the refinery was deprived of electricity and steam, which immediately affected 80 percent of production at Isla. Willemstad residents were shocked to see dark smoke coming out of the stacks of the refinery

yesterday, which were a result of an automatic burn process of gasses accumulated there, after the refinery was shut down.

The problems at CUC were not resolved on Tuesday which made it impossible to start up the cat cracker at the refinery, which at then was completely off-line. Disgruntled and worried refinery employees complained not only to Isla management but also with the Curaçao insular government especially since it is not the first time the CUC is falling short to provide the needed electricity and steam to the refinery. The employees accuse CUC for causing economic



damages to the refinery. The CUC is partly owned by the Curaçao water and electricity company Aqualectra and the Japanese multinational Marubeni/Mitsubishi, and according to the employees, because of inferior quality has not been delivering the

necessary service to the refinery. In addition they are worried with the possibility PDVSA would stop production all together.

In addition to the political and technical issues, Isla Refinery is facing an environmental problem as well. The Courts

recently determined a multimillion dollar fine for endangering the health of residents near the refinery. The verdict followed a comprehensive investigation on the living condition in areas surrounding the outdated refinery. □

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with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagary.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with these fantastic live shows! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Sun, smiles and sensational Beach Tennis

Beach Tennis Results of the February Ranking event



EAGLE BEACH - It was sunny and hot, but the atmosphere was terrific and only red, sunburned smiling faces could be seen on the stretch of beach next to Costa Linda Beach Resort where the February Ranking of Beach Tennis was held. This monthly event gets more and more players, as everyone starts finding out how much fun it is to play.

The different categories were all filled to the max and the twelve courts were constantly occupied, but at sundown the finals could be played. Laughter and fun were combined with lots to drink and eat, so even if you lost, it did not matter one bit. And we have to tell you: the level of play is going up, so do not skip any last Sundays of the month as you will be lagging sorely behind.

Some amazing results: Shawn Porry and Cris Croes were once again invincible, as were Pro Ladies Marieke Buuts and Claire Ros.

Bertrand Coulet and Derrick Hernandez proved that they can beat Jochem Ros and Aksel. Advanced Mix couple Corey and Marcy Guest are getting better and better, but they still could not claim victory over Kamilah Dammers and Bryan Helmeyer.

Intermediate Ladies Henny Groot Antink and Dop Kruimel won their category by beating Lotte van Reek and Ashly, two up-and-coming, very fierce young players. Barbara Bregitta and Madelon Minneboo did great in the Fun Ladies.

Fun men:

1 Hubert Solagnier/Robert Maduro

2 Reinier v Sisseren/Mike Grol

3 Timothy-/Ronald in t Veld

3 Pascal Regien/Kevin Ruhe

Fun ladies:

1 Barbara Bregita/Madelon Minneboo

2 Meike Smit/Miranda v Ginkel

3 Maartje Hiwinds/Carine Jansen

3 Linda Bogert/Conny Kiers

Fun mix:

1 Janine Hendriks/Mark Kiezebrink

2 Monique Bouwer/Anthony Blok

3 Margot Goeyers/Gijs v Voorthuizen

3 Katja Odijk/Alejandro Galeano

Intermediate men:

1 Rick v Dijk/Joris Post

2 Raynhold Hughes/Gregory Mathilde

3 Oscar Helmeyer/Adolfo Valvuelo

3 Fabio Luchii/Manuel Muller

Intermediate ladies:

1 Henny Groot Antink/Dop Kruimel

2 Lotte v Reek/Ashley

3 Liza Blok/Jenn Aldridge

3 Simone Rijnsaardt/Roos de Hart

Advanced men:

1 Stefan Marchena/Lukas Steenbakker

2 Edgard Sune/Jenner Flores

3 Jonas Manusama /Vincent Twint

3 Siardus Witteveen /Agim Veselaj

Advanced mix:

1 Kamilah Dammers/Bryan Helmeyer

2 Corey-/Marcy Guest

3 Sartini Kousemaker /Dave Ouwekerk

3 Sascha Nieuwenuis /Patrick Bernasco

Pro men:

1 Bertrand Coulet /Derrick Hernandez

2 Jochem Ros /Aksel Imac

3 Sjoerd de Vries /Sergio Fie Sam Yoek

3 Cado de Vreede/ Dennis Schoneveld



Pro ladies:

1 Marieke Buuts + Claire Ros

2 Tessel Huizinga + Manon Duijzer

3 Yvette Franssen + Danielle v Staveren

3 Natali Samardzic + Virginia Melendez

Youth advanced:

1 Shawn Porry/Cris Croes

2 Gijs/Karel

3 Edmund/Jeffrey

3 Tjerk/Daniel

Youth Fun:



1 Kevin vd Heuvel/Lars

2 Jasper vd Berg/Mathias Verploeg

3 Lukas vd Berg/Bo Groot Antink

3 Mark/Daniel

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On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Amazonia Churrascaria introduces a new dining option



PALM BEACH – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodizio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new

indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing a fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

Having become an instant success Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just great food.

"Now, after ten years," says Hubert Solagnier, restaurant manager, "it is time for a new product, an a la carte option, designed to satisfy small eaters, and patrons with distinct menu favorites." Diner may now opt for a continuous parade of gauchos, slicing more than 14 cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, or an a la carte



dinner option, where their favorite skewer is delivered to the table, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame, in the restaurant's signature style.

Both dining styles are

accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal salad bar where patrons can keep sampling until they beg for mercy.

With two choices, an all-



inclusive feast and an a la carte delight, diners can now better tailor the Amazonia Churrascaria culinary adventure, to their liking, combined with the restaurant's extensive award-winning Wine Spectator wine list, well stocked bar and terrific selection of Cuban cigars.

Pictured here the Amazonia Churrascaria staff introducing their new menu, an a la carte dinner option, featuring a selection of skewers, from Grilled Pineapple, to Parmesan Pork, Filet Mignon Wrapped in Bacon, Lamb Chops the Mixed Amazonia Skewer with tenderloin and vegetables, and the Passion Skewer with six jumbo shrimp. □

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HUMAN HINTS

The Power of the Impulse

We all know the feeling of an impulse. When we act on impulse, it is without conscious thought. An impulse can be defined as, "a sudden, involuntary inclination prompting to action."

An impulse is also, "an impelling action or force, driving onward or inducing motion." A hammer hitting a nail is a classic example of an impulse force. The sudden, instant force

from the hammer induces the nail to motion.

The actual action during a football game with the clock running, is an impulse force in the context of the game. The mind boggles to think about what goes into the production of a football game. It takes three hours to run one hour off the game clock, and there's not always action on the field while the game clock is running. The time of

action on the field is like 13 minutes or so. Then we consider the entire production, planning, personnel, equipment, stadium, vendors, tv, media, the fans traveling to the stadium, etc, etc, and the less than one hour of action on the field becomes an impulse force.

For a hammer to hit a nail, a person must hold the hammer straight, lift it and bring it down with force, direction and alignment, onto a very small target. Anyone without lots of practice knows the skill that it takes to hit the nail squarely every time, and anyone who has swung a hammer knows the energy it takes to drive a nail.

An Impulse can be thought of as energy that is focused and concentrated in time and space. It is a sudden, instant, release of stored, organized energy.

Focused, organized energy is also what matter is made

of. All three dimensional mass is concentrated energy. Einstein proved it with E=MC squared. Energy is Mass times a Constant. The constant can be thought of as a Distortion Factor, or Transformation Factor, which acts on Energy to create Mass. Mass is energy in a different form. Mass is focused energy that has been transformed by light, and we have defined focused energy as an impulse force.

Therefore, Mass, the three dimensional matter that we interact with in this plane of expression, is made up of impulse forces transformed by light.

Ponder that and get comfortable with it, for tomorrow we shall explore methods of incorporating this new knowledge into our daily lives, and how to use it to our advantage.

Go to www.HumanHints.com

com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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PG-13	THE FOURTH KIND	6:00	8:30	late show: 11:00	NEW
daily:		1:00	3:15		
matinee:					

PG-13	THE LOVELY BONES	5:30	8:30	late show: 11:30	
daily:		2:30			
matinee:					

R	EDGE OF DARKNESS	4:30	6:30	9:00	
daily:		2:00			
matinee:					

PG	ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"	4:30			
daily:		2:30			
matinee:	12:30				

PG	VALENTINE'S DAY	6:30	9:00	late show: 11:45	
daily:		3:30			
matinee:	12:45				

R	THE WOLFMAN	6:00	8:45	late show: 11:30	
daily:		3:00			
matinee:	12:15				

R	LEGION	7:00	9:30	late show: 12:00	
daily:					
matinee:					

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES	6:00	8:30	late show: 11:00	NEW
daily:		3:30			
matinee:	1:00				

PG-13	DEAR JOHN	6:15	8:45	late show: 11:30	
daily:		3:45			
matinee:	1:15				

PG	PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS	5:30	8:15	late show: 11:00	
daily:		2:45			
matinee:	12:00				

R	THE BOOK OF ELI	6:00	9:00	late show: 11:45	
daily:		3:00			
matinee:	12:15				

R	FROM PARIS WITH LOVE	4:00	6:15	8:30	
daily:					
matinee:	1:45				

PG-13	AVATAR	4:45	8:00	late show: 11:15	
daily:					
matinee:	1:30				

Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat

Top 10 Listing Position For Eagle/Palm Beach Restaurants On Tripadvisor

Simply Fish Beachfront Restaurant Named A 'Must' For Island Dining

PALM BEACH – Simply Fish, Aruba Marriott's best kept secret on the beach for romantic dining, is getting more popular by the day due to raving comments on review website Tripadvisor. Tripadvisor is a free travel guide and research website that assists customers in gathering travel information, posting opinions of travel related issues and engaging in interactive travel forums. Currently Simply Fish holds a firm position in the top 10 of 52 restaurants on Eagle/Palm Beach.

Marriott guests and other visitors and locals comment on Simply Fish being the ideal restaurant to have a romantic dinner on the beach.

"Guests truly love the fact that they can sit right by the ocean at this beach front restaurant, under the stars and wiggle their toes in the soft white sand. Most visitors to Aruba don't have this at home and enjoy the experience at Simply Fish", says De Palm Tours concierge coordinator Millicent Faro-Alvarez.

Another 'wow' factor to the dining experience at Simply Fish is the sunset that is so famous in Aruba. "Here you'll have front row seating to have the full sunset experience at its best. That is why our restaurant is especially popular amongst couples and for wedding dinners, as it truly is one of the most romantic restaurants on island" comments Simply Fish restaurant manager Richie Koeiman. Live music and waving palm trees are the final touches in creating a relaxing and exceptional dining experience.

Although the chefs at Simply Fish do an amazing job of catering to the tastes of meat-lovers, their line is undeniably fresh seafood dishes.

Tasty rock-lobster tail, mahimahi, halibut, and tender scallops are sure to satisfy even the most perceptive seafood-lover. Every day there is a catch of the day, prepared by Marriott's chefs with a special Simply Fish touch.

The restaurant is located on the beach in front of the Marriott



Resort (hotel) and reservations can be made every day after 1 PM. Tripadvisor is a great website to share your comments, so if you had a great time at a restaurant yourself, you're invited to share it.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms – the most spacious on the island – each with large,

private balconies overlooking the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. Luxury

hotel-within-a-hotel Tradewinds Club is the newest addition to this beachfront resort.

Marriott and Renaissance Caribbean & Mexico Resorts is comprised of ten resorts in seven of the top tropical destinations in the Caribbean and Mexico – Aruba, Cancun, Curaçao, Grand Cayman, Puerto Vallarta, St. Kitts and St. Thomas. □

Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

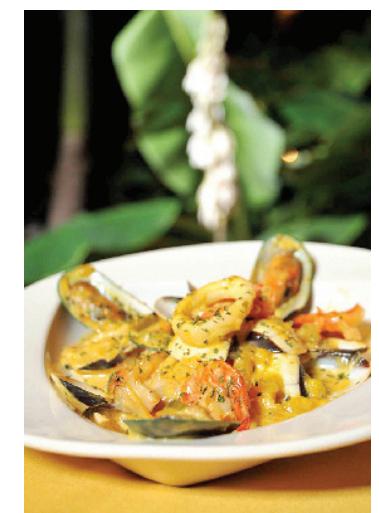
Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarlello, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



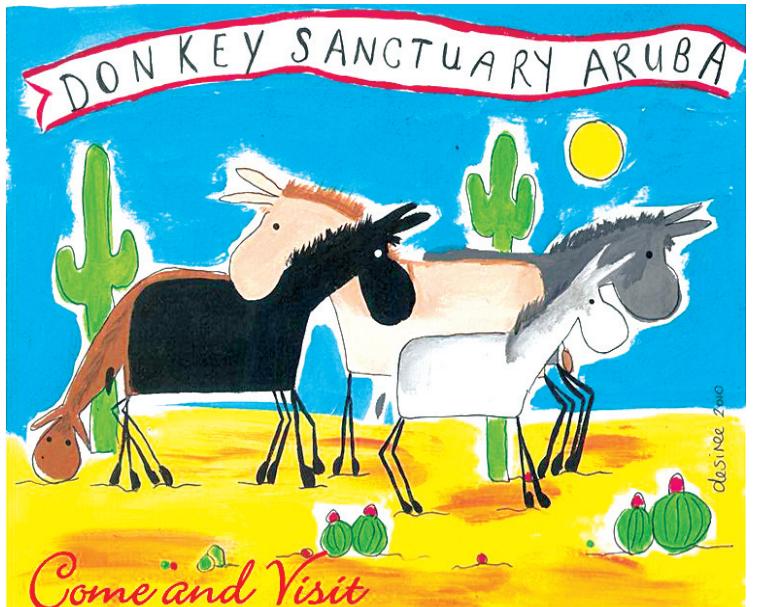
I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

Top associates celebrated At The Westin Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently, all associates and management of The Westin Resort, Aruba were invited to attend a special luncheon in the resort's ballroom in honor of the nominees for Brand Champion of the

Month for January. The Brand Champion of the Month nominees were nominated by management for exemplifying Westin's core values, including providing personal touches and personalized services



Locals and guests love Aqua Grill



PALM BEACH - One of the best ways to know where to go to dine on the island—especially for seafood—is to ask a local. Aqua Grill restaurant has garnered international critical acclaim, but is also a local favorite for the freshest seafood, live Maine lobster, and the island's largest raw bar.

Locals Gabb and Debbie Mansur recently

to 'surprise and delight' every guest, proactively anticipating guests' needs and making them feel special, and recognizing the special touches offered by Westin to help guests restore the body, expand the mind, and elevate the spirit so they leave not only rested, but also renewed and enriched. The nominated associates are recognized for inspiring their co-workers and making the extra efforts to improve their departments and go above and beyond expectations.

During a beautiful lunch buffet spread produced by the Westin's culinary and banquet teams, the

following were named top of the class:

From Heart of the House for January-Julio Restrepo from the culinary team for his "can do" attitude and his initiative to create new and fresh ideas; from Front of the House for January-Patrick Leppers from the sales department for his above-and-beyond work with wedding parties at the resort, and the prompt and individualized attention he gives them.

Pictured here are the winners and nominees being congratulated by General Manager Richard Roy. Congratulations to all! □

brought their special guests on the island, Debbie's parents, Mr. and Mrs Dixon, to Aqua Grill.

Hailing from West Virginia, they have been coming to Aruba since 1997, and enjoyed their culinary experience at the Palm Beach restaurant. □

Teachers enjoy Aqua Power sessions at Windie's Watersports



EAGLE BEACH -- More than thirty teachers enjoyed an evening of exercise and relaxation at Windie's Watersports when they convened for an 'test drive' of the aqua cycles under the guidance of fitness instructor Roy and a taste of Windie's aerobic training with dumbbells, in the facility's half Olympic size pool. Pictured here the wet and wild fun experience combining exercise, and recreation as captured by Rene Oude Avenhuis, Windie's husband. For more information check out Aqua Windie's, Dr.Horacio E.Oduber Blvd.4. □



Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic!' - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK, Adam Steinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off." MAGIC-GRAND ILLUSION - COMEDY



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm
Tickets: at the door
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults
Group Sales: 561-1090
website: www.MagicLive.com
Blog: www.MagicOnTheBeach.com

To stimulate a healthy life for our children and to prevent premature birth

Kiwanis Circle K announces campaign 'Celebrating Life'



ORANJESTAD—Pre-natal care and a healthy lifestyle during pregnancy is essential to avoid premature birth and unhealthy babies. That is the message the Kiwanis Circle

K of the University of Aruba wants to bring forth during the month of March. Circle K, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Palm Beach is supporting the 'March of Dimes'

movement, held every March, and is planning during this month to launch an aggressive awareness campaign on the importance of prenatal care and a healthy lifestyle during

pregnancy. The goal is to make the community, particularly future parents aware of the need to take precautionary care in order to ensure the health of their children.

Lay Hing Yee explained Circle K is organizing a symposium 'Every baby born deserves a good health,' in collaboration with the foundation White Yellow Cross (Wit Gele Kruis), Family Planning and midwife services. During the symposium, scheduled to take place on March 20th at the University of Aruba, the specialists will elaborate on the cause and effects of premature birth and what can be done to prevent this. Admittance is free and everyone is invited to attend.

Circle K stands for the wellbeing of children, according to Carlos Lopez. And in order to make sure Aruba's babies are healthy, it has to start with a healthy

pregnancy, which is also determined by a healthy life before getting pregnant, stated Marisol Sanchez of Circle K. All are students at the University of Aruba.

The March-long awareness campaign will be closed off with the 'March of Dimes,' on March 27th at the Plaza Betico Croes. The event will include a march and participants can finish it off with a healthy 'Zumba' session. Circle K is selling special ribbons and wristbands, at 9 florins each. The sum symbolizes nine months of a healthy pregnancy. Participants can register on the day of the march, at 4:30 pm. The walk is scheduled to start at 5:30 pm, and the Zumba sessions are programmed to take place at 6:30. For more information, call 5922265 or 7333013 for the ribbons and wristbands, or visit the websites www.marchofdimes.com and www.circlekaruba.org. □

FA enjoy Cafe Rembrandt Hospitality



South Beach Centre -- The International Friends of Aruba enjoyed a fun casual happy hour at Rembrandt Cafe at South Beach Centre organized by Judy Lembo last Friday. It was wonderful to see so

many members out for a social event.

Among upcoming activities, the dinner club at Blossoms restaurant, and a Children's Easter Party, on Sunday March 27. □



Finding Balance through Nature

By: Dr Carlos Viana

Imagine one medicine that could normalize blood pressure by either lowering or raising your body's blood pressure. How great would it be to have a pill that in the morning gets you going, yet taken at night provides sound restful sleep. Imagine a tablet that increases your mental sharpness, yet calms, relaxes and shuts down your racing mind.

Your healthy body has the ability to balance itself while adjusting to changing conditions. An example of this is temperature regulation in a room by a heating or air-conditioning thermostat. In the body, a system controlled by the brain, regulates breathing, metabolic rates, blood-vessel size, and blood-sugar levels in response to changes caused by temperature, hormones, disease and other factors. This ability of the body to find balance is called homeobalance.

Without its ability to maintain a balanced body, we become stressed, our resistance falls, sleep eludes us, and we begin an invariable slide into disease. Many people start out with medicine to lower high cholesterol then have to take high blood pressure medicine and then sleeping pills. The average sixty year old is now averaging nine medicines a day.

Interestingly, today's pharmaceutical medicines have their history in herbal medicine. More than eighty percent of drugs today are synthetic replicas of the healing parts of medicine plants. Of the many types of medicine, herbs are a

unique category of plants we herbalist call adaptogens.

The word adaptogen is used by Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) to refer to a treatment like acupuncture, or a natural herb product that increases the body's resistance to stresses such as trauma, anxiety and fatigue. All herbal adaptogens contain antioxidants, but not all antioxidants are adaptogens. Antioxidants help slow damaging oxidation or ageing of cells.

To the skepticism of modern medicine, TCM physicians have acupuncture treatments which are adaptogens. For example, the same acupuncture treatment can be used to either raise or lower blood pressure. Similarly, one treatment can be used for anxiety or over-confidence; depression or over-exuberance. You get the picture. An adaptogen treatment or herb helps the body regulate itself.

Knowledge of adaptogens dates back thousands of years to ancient India and China. Scientific study began in the 40's when Dr. Nikolai Lazarev defined an adaptogen as an agent that allows the body to counter adverse physical, chemical, or biological stressors by raising resistance toward such stress. Raising resistance to stress allows the organism to "adapt" to the stressful circumstances.

Like acupuncture treatments, garlic oil can both raise low blood pressure or lower hypertension, lowering the risks of heart disease. Some people worry about garlic odor. Parsley helps freshen up garlic breath is great for bones and is

a mild diuretic for those who need this.

We can use green tea in the morning to energize our start and then again at night to promote restful sleep. Green tea contains vitamin C, E and B complex, making it a great antioxidant that helps block cancer-causing chemicals, and reduces tumors. Green tea has also been shown in studies to increase metabolism and may aid in weight loss. Green tea now comes in capsules for those on the go. What makes green tea work so well is an amino acid in green tea called L-Theanine. Able to cross the blood-brain barrier, theanine has psychoactive properties. Theanine has been shown to reduce mental and physical stress, and improves cognition and mood.

The Chinese were first to use licorice to treat the liver since it neutralizes liver toxins. Known to stimulate the production of the cortisol hormone useful when the body is under mental and emotional stress, licorice also contains a cortisone-like property that has been found beneficial and nourishing on adrenal glands.

Historically the only drawback of using licorice is that it can increase blood pressure in some people. One of the sugars found in licorice, glycyrrhizin has been reported in some people to increase blood pressure or cause retention of water in the body. Today, quality licorice root supplements remove the glycyrrhizin and it is identified as deglycyrrhizinated licorice, also known as deglycyrrhizinated licorice, or commonly referred to as DGL

licorice. DGL licorice helps repair the walls of the stomach and intestines significantly reducing the size of gastric ulcers, reducing the recurrence and hastening healing. In our clinic, DGL has shown to be an effective treatment for duodenal ulcers.

Another herb known for adrenal support is Rhodiola root that increases availability of energy during the day, but also reduces stressed feelings. It increases endurance, but also, provides greater mental alertness, and provides deep, restful sleep. This great adaptogen significantly speeds up the recovery process after illness. Individuals that "burn the candle at both ends" have found supplementing with this herb helpful. Perhaps the best known adaptogen and known for its Chinese medicinal qualities is Ginseng root; this immune system stimulant also increases work capacity. Western medicine recognizes that ginseng increases resistance to stress, increases endurance and is especially known as an aphrodisiac that enhances libido and sexual performance in men. There are many qualities and types of ginseng. Since herbs vary, when choosing an herbal supplement, make sure you look for "standardized" on the label, like "Standardized, Full Potency, Korean Ginseng Root." This means that you are sure about how much of the active ingredient you are taking.

Get The Point! Adaptogenic therapy like acupuncture and herbal medicine are unique from other substances. Adaptogens have a normalizing effect on the body



and are capable of either toning down the activity of over-active organs or strengthening under-active systems. They are natural substances able to help the body maintain optimal homeostasis or balance. When using these natural adaptogens together, we see amazing results. Could your body, mind or spirit use some balancing? Call to make an appointment. CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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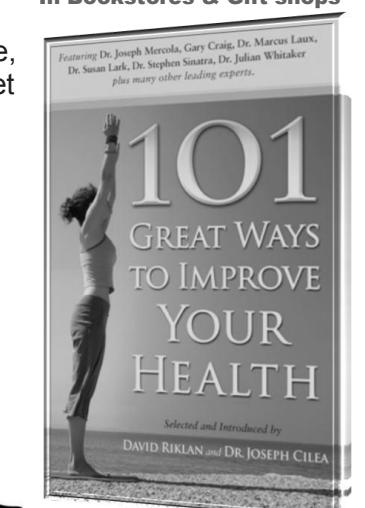


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Scientists try to break fat-and-disease link

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — What if you could be fat but avoid heart disease or diabetes? Scientists trying to break the fat-and-disease link increasingly say inflammation is the key.

In the quest to prove it, a major study is under way testing whether an anti-inflammatory drug — an old, cheap cousin of aspirin — can fight the Type 2 diabetes spurred by obesity. And intriguing new research illustrates how those yellow globs of fat lurking under the skin are more than a storage site for extra calories. They're a toxic neighborhood where inflammation appears to be born.

Diabetes and heart disease usually tag along with extra pounds, a huge risk for the two-thirds of Americans who are overweight or obese. What isn't clear is what sets off the cascade of damage that ends in those illnesses. After all, there are examples of obese people who somehow stay metabolically fit — no high blood pressure or high blood sugar or high cholesterol.

"If fat cells functioned perfectly, you could be as obese as you want and not have heart disease," says Dr. Carey Lumeng of the University of Michigan. "It's something we don't understand, why some people are more susceptible and others are not so susceptible."

Solving that mystery could point to more targeted treatments for obesity's threats than today's effective but hard-to-follow advice to lose weight. The chief suspect: Inflammation that the immune system normally uses to fight infection runs amok with weight gain — simmering inside fat tissue before spreading to harm blood vessels and spur insulin resistance.

"We all think it's bad, and we know a lot of people with really bad inflammation die sooner," says Dr. Myrlene Staten of the National Institutes of Health's diabetes division.

Dr. Steven Shoelson at the Harvard-affiliated Joslin Diabetes Center noted reports from 150 years ago that one of the oldest anti-inflammatories around — salsalate, from the aspirin family — could lower blood sugar. Less harsh on the stomach than aspirin, generic salsalate is used today for arthritis, and Shoelson discovered that it inhibits what he calls a master switch in inflammation regulation.

"We put those pieces together and sure enough, it does work," says Shoelson.

Pilot trials found short-term use of salsalate, added to regular diabetes medication, helped poorly controlled Type 2 diabetics lower their blood sugar substantially. Fasting glucose levels dropped from about an average of 150 down to 110, Schoelson says.

Now an NIH-funded study is recruiting several hundred Type 2 diabetics at 21 medical centers around the country to take the drug or a dummy pill for a year, to track long-term effects.

But what sparks that inflammation in the first place? Other researchers are hot on the trail of immune cells called macrophages that cluster inside fat tissue.

In a novel study, Dr. Preeti Kishore of Albert Einstein College of Medicine took 30 somewhat overweight but healthy volunteers and infused free fatty acids, a type of fat molecule, directly into their blood. She was mimicking what happens in the obese, when these fatty acids spill out from stored fat and continually flow through the body.

The results were startling: For five hours, the volunteers' bodies quit responding effectively to insulin. They also experienced a surge in a protein called PAI-1 (pronounced Pie-one) that sets off a chain reaction linked to heart disease-causing blood clots and diabetes. When Kishore took samples of the volunteers' fat tissue, she found the macrophages start producing more PAI-1 as they are bathed in the fatty acids. The more pounds you put on, the bigger fat cells called adipocytes become until they release fatty acids and eventually die. □

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Presidente uruguayo comienza gestión con asunción de gabinete



El presidente de Uruguay, José Mujica, se dirige a una multitud después de recibir la banda presidencial del mandatario saliente Tabaré Vazquez en Montevideo, el 1 de marzo del 2010. REUTERS/Carlos Pazos

Por falta alarma de tsunami

Crece el enojo en pueblos de Chile

CONSTITUCION (Reuters) - Una pregunta se escucha una y otra vez en los pueblos costeros chilenos arrasados por el tsunami: ¿Por qué nadie nos avisó?

Chile, un país que ha tenido algunos de los mayores terremotos de la historia del planeta, cuenta con construcciones antisísmicas y un sistema para advertir sobre posibles tsunamis.

Pero, en la madrugada del sábado, las advertencias fallaron y, cerca de media hora después del sismo de magnitud 8,8, olas gigantes arrasaron sin aviso pueblos costeros, caletas y puertos en la franja que va de la costa central de Llo-Lleo al puerto sureño de Talcahuano.

Hasta el momento, se confirmaron cerca de 800 muertes por la tragedia y se estima que las pérdidas serán millonarias.

“Por acá nadie llegó a avisarnos, nosotros partimos sólos porque sabemos que cuando hay un temblor tan grande, hay que dejar todo y arrancar”, dijo Alejandra Jara, de 28 años, en La Pesca, una localidad a 250 kilómetros al sur de Santiago. Jara tenía cabañas para turistas en la playa y se quedó sin nada al igual que muchos de sus vecinos, en su mayoría pescadores que, al conocer de la dinámica del mar, huyeron a zonas más altas. □

MONTEVIDEO (Reuters) - El presidente uruguayo, José Mujica, comenzó su gestión al frente del segundo gobierno consecutivo de izquierda en el país participando en la asunción de su gabinete, en el que destacan ex guerrilleros y un ministro de Economía moderado que mantendrá la continuidad. Mujica, de la coalición Frente Amplio y que asumió la presidencia el lunes en un acto masivo, recorría el martes las sedes de los 13 ministerios invistiendo a los distintos secretarios de Estado.

“El Poder Ejecutivo está unido y se está jugando al lado de cada uno de los hombres responsables a los que les ha pedido el compromiso y el esfuerzo (...) gobernar es construir equipos y eso requiere sabiduría, tesón y mucha humildad”, dijo Mujica en una de las ceremonias.

El mandatario, un ex integrante del grupo armado Movimiento de Liberación

Nacional-Tupamaros a mediados de 1960 y 1970, dejó atrás su pasado radical, moderó su discurso y aseguró que continuará con la política económica del país, en expansión desde el 2003.

Como forma de llevar tranquilidad a mercados e inversores, el Ministerio de Economía estará a cargo de Fernando Lorenzo, quien ocupó la asesoría macroeconómica en la gestión pasada. El economista, de 50 años, es un hombre de confianza del vicepresidente, Danilo Astori, anterior ministro de Economía y quien estará encargado de supervisar los números del país en el Gobierno de Mujica. El gabinete del mandatario también está compuesto por dos ex tupamaros en el Ministerio del Interior y en el Ministerio de Defensa, una mujer comunista en Desarrollo Social y una arquitecta en el Ministerio de Vivienda y Medio Ambiente. □

Colombia sigue investigación de España contra ETA y nexos FARC

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Colombia permanecerá atenta a la investigación de la Audiencia Nacional de España, que acusó al Gobierno de Venezuela de colaborar con el grupo separatista vasco ETA y con los rebeldes izquierdistas colombianos de las FARC, anunció el martes el canciller Jaime Bermúdez.

El juez español Eloy Velasco dijo el lunes que el Gobierno de Hugo Chávez cooperó para que ambos grupos armados sostuvieran encuentros e intercambiaron técnicas de guerrilla o información para un posible atentado en España contra altos funcionarios colombianos, como el presidente Alvaro Uribe.

“El Gobierno de España ha pedido la explicación al Gobierno de Venezuela y nosotros estaremos atentos a ello”, dijo Bermúdez

en declaraciones a periodistas.

“También a través de nuestra embajada, hemos pedido, si es posible, tener la información precisa del caso para conocer en detalle de que se trata”, explicó.

En el auto, el juez procesó a 13 personas, seis miembros de ETA y siete de las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) por delitos de colaboración con grupos armados ilegales, conspiración para cometer homicidios o tenencia de explosivos.

El juez también ordenó la detención internacional de los implicados que están en libertad. Chávez respondió que las acusaciones en su contra por los supuestos vínculos con ETA y las FARC son parte de “una orquesta del imperio yanqui”.

La acusación de la Audiencia Nacional de

España y la explicación que pidió el Gobierno español a Venezuela, se producen en momentos en que las relaciones diplomáticas de Bogotá y de Caracas atraviesan una crisis que ha afectado el comercio binacional.

La crisis estalló en julio cuando Chávez denunció que un acuerdo militar que firmó Colombia y Estados Unidos extiende una plataforma para que Washington realice una invasión a su país como parte de un plan para asesinarlo y frenar la revolución que impulsa a favor de los más pobres.

Pero Colombia asegura que desde las siete bases incluidas en el acuerdo los militares estadounidenses sólo realizarán operaciones contra el narcotráfico y el terrorismo.

La ETA y las FARC son consideradas como organizaciones terroristas por la Unión Europea. □

Perú brinda ayuda Chile tras sismo y deja diferencias

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - El presidente de Perú, Alan García, entregó el martes personalmente a Chile insumos para ayudar a su vecino a levantarse del poderoso terremoto que devastó su zona centro-sur y, en un mensaje que contrastó con disputas y diferencias históricas, llamó a fraguar la unión.

Tras llegar a Santiago en un avión que trasladó desde Lima un hospital de campaña, carpas, plantas purificadoras de agua, García dijo que es momento de reforzar la "fraternidad y solidaridad" para ayudar a Chile a superar los estragos de la tragedia que ha dejado cerca de 800 muertos.

"Traemos un mensaje de apoyo para que el pueblo chileno sepa que en una circunstancia como esta estamos a las órdenes, al servicio y al apoyo de lo que se necesite aquí", dijo García a periodistas desde una de las pistas del aeropuerto.

El mandatario se reunió posteriormente con su homóloga Michele Bachelet y dijo tener previsto un encuentro con el presidente electo Sebastián Piñera, para poner personalmente a la orden a su ministro de Salud y a médicos para ayudarlos en las labores de rescate y apoyo a los damnificados. "En nombre de todo el pueblo peruano y del Gobierno reitero a ustedes que necesitamos fortalecer nuestra fraternidad, nuestra cercanía y en estos momentos de necesidad labrar la verdadera unión de los pueblos", afirmó García. Tras el encuentro, Bachelet sostuvo que "hay una muestra clara de solidaridad del presidente Alan García tras una catástrofe que ha devastado nuestro país. Esta es una muestra de una relación de buena vecindad".



La presidenta de Chile, Michele Bachelet (derecha), junto a su homólogo peruano, Alan García, luego de reunirse en el Aeropuerto de Santiago. Marzo 2, 2010. REUTERS/Sebastian Escobar






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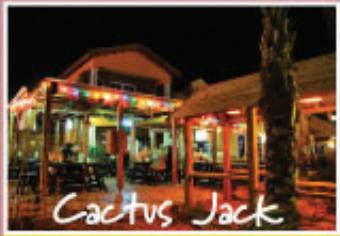


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